

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 ACDA-19 AID-20 RSR-01 /158 W

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R 110951 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4255

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 2062

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ID

SUBJECT: TRIPARTITE MEETING ON PHILIPPINE MUSLIM- SABAH PROBLEM

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 2025

1. SECGEN MFA ZAITON, WHO ACCOMPANIED RAZAK TO PALEMBANG MEETING CONFIRMED TODAY THAT PLANS ARE UNDER WAY TO ARRANGE SUBJECT MEETING WITHIN WEEK OR TWO. GOM HAS DESIGNATED MINISTER OF SPECIAL FUNCTIONS GHAZALI SHAFIE AND MALAYSIAN HICOM TO AUSTRALIA FUAD STEPHENS TO REPRESENT GOM.

2. ZAITON SAID GOP MIGHT NOT WELCOME CHOICE OF GHAZALI AS GOM NEGOTIATOR IN VIEW OF GHAZALI' S ROLE AS PRINCIPAL CONTESTOR OF GOP SABAH CLAIM IN PAST. HOWEVER, CHOICE OF GHAZALI IS IMPORTANT TO GOM NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF HIS EXPERTISE ON SABAH PROBLEM BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF HIS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH SABAH CHIEF MINISTER MUSTAPHA. WHATEVER CONFIDENTIAL

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GHAZALI RECOMMENDS, SAID ZAITON, MUSTAPHA IS LIKELY TO GO ALONG.

3. INTERESTING SIDELIGHT WAS ZAITON' S CLAIM THAT GOP HAD

INITIATED SUGGESTION FOR TRIPARTITE MEEITNG AT PATTAYA.

4. ALSO OF SOME INTEREST WAS ZAITON' S STATEMENT THAT INDOS
ARE CONCERNED ABOUT MUSLIM TROUBLE IN THE PHILIPPINES
BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE SPILLOVER INTO INDONESIA WHERE, PARTICULARLY
IN SULAWESI AND EAST JAVA, FANATIC MUSLIM ELEMENTS
MIGHT BE ENCOURAGED TO ANTI- CHRISTIAN JIHAD.

5. AS HE HAD MENTIONED SOME WEEKS AGO, ZAITON AGAIN
SOLICITED US ASSISTANCE TO URGE GOP TO ABANDON SABAH
CLAIM. I REPEATED WHAT I HAD TOLD HIM ON PREVIOUS OCCASION,
NAMELY THAT WE HOPED GOP AND GOM WOULD FIND IT POSSIBLE
TO RECONCILE THEIR DIFFERENCES IN THE INTEREST OF ASEAN
UNITY AND REGIONAL PEACE.
LYDMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NMAFVVZCZ

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